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Title : Need to sanction Central Freedom Fighters' Pension to those who participated in Goa Freedom Struggle.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P. Karunakaran - Laid on the Table.

*SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, Goa Freedom Fighters Struggle was in the year 1955. Hundreds of people from various parts of India participated in this Struggle. In Kerala more than hundred people participated, out of which 62 are alive. This struggle was considered as a Freedom Struggle to free Goa from the reign of the Portuguese. Kerala Government has already been giving Freedom Fighters Pension to the participants of this Struggle. All other States, except Kerala are receiving Central Pension, are in receipt of State Pension. A High Court judgement also made it clear that 'those who receive State Pension are eligible to get Central Freedom Fighters Pension'. They have given a number of representations to the Government but the same were rejected with a simple reason that there is no certificate proving their hiding and imprisonment. Since the Struggle was in the year 1955, there was no need of hiding or imprisonment and the Government of India itself has supported this Struggle. They are getting the State Pension and that will be the irrefutable evidence of their involvement in this Struggle.

So I request the Government to sanction Central SSS Pension to those who have participated in the Goa Freedom Struggle.